



**EPIC RIVALRY:
The Inside Story of the Soviet and American Space Race**

Von Hardesty and Gene Eisman

**Tuesday, October 7, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Treasury Executive Institute
801 9th Street NW
Washington, DC**

When Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon in 1969, they personified an almost unimaginable feat—the incredibly complex task of sending humans safely to another celestial body. This extraordinary odyssey, which grew from the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, was galvanized by the Sputnik launch in 1957. Written by Smithsonian curator Von Hardesty and researcher Gene Eisman, *Epic Rivalry* tells the story from both the American and the Russian points of view, and shows how each space-faring nation played a vital role in stimulating the work of the other. Scores of rare, unpublished, and powerful photographs recall the urgency and technical creativity of both nations' efforts.

Hardesty and Eisman recreate in vivid detail the "parallel universes" of the two space exploration programs, with visionaries Wernher von Braun and Sergei Korolev and political leaders John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev at the epicenters. The conflict between countries, and the tense drama of their independent progress, unfolds in vivid prose. Approaching its subject from a uniquely balanced perspective, this important narrative chronicles the epic race to the moon and back as it has never been told before.

Von Hardesty was previously at Treasury Executive Institute in February, 2008, discussing his book, *Black Wings: Courageous Stories of African Americans in Aviation and Space History*. Hardesty is also the author of *Air Force One*, *Lindbergh: Flight's Enigmatic Hero*, and *Red Phoenix: The Rise of Soviet Air Power, 1941–1945*, among many other publications. He is a curator at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Gene Eisman, an independent historian, has served as researcher and consulting editor for several books, including *Air Force One: The Aircraft that Shaped the Modern Presidency*. He is a volunteer researcher at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and an expert on Soviet and Russian aviation.

REGISTRATION: All SES members, candidates, and GS-15s in Treasury and legacy Treasury bureaus are eligible to attend. Register by October 1, 2008, on line at <http://intranet.treas.gov/tei>. DHS and legacy bureau employees should call 202-622-9311 for registration assistance.